

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3-6 are pending herein.

The Applicants thank Examiner Wills for the courtesies extended during a telephone interview conducted on February 17, 2005. The substance of the discussion during that interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

During the February 17, 2005 telephone interview, Examiner Wills confirmed that there are no existing prior art rejections (consistent with the statement in the November 30, 2004 Office Action, page 3, lines 2-3), and that the statement in the November 30, 2004 Office Action, page 2, lines 4-5, that "... claims 1 and 3-6 are newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Nemoto et al. U.S. Patent 3,368,750" was a typographical error, and was intended to instead indicate that claims 1 and 3-6 were newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claims 1 and 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. In response, claim 1 has been amended as set forth above to address this rejection. The Applicant respectfully acknowledges the indication by Examiner Wills during the February 17, 2005 telephone interview that the above amendments to the claims overcome this rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. PTO reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that entry of the above amendments would be proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116, since the amendments overcome the sole rejection in this application and place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, claims 1 and 3-6 are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,



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February 18, 2005

Date

KCB:jms

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Page 5 of 5